

How Many People Will Be Put At Risk by Higher Air Pollution Levels Across New York?

Last year was the worst on record for ozone pollution in New York, with 232 warnings issued because of dangerous ozone levels detected across the state. The Bush Administration's proposed changes to New Source Review rules will only make the situation worse because they weaken current federal air pollution laws, allowing industrial plants to upgrade equipment without installing new pollution-controlling technology. This will hurt New York because many of these plants are in the industrial Midwest and emit nitrous oxide, a pollutant that turns into ozone on hot days and settles in the air New Yorkers breathe. While ozone pollution affects everyone, certain populations such as asthmatics, and those who suffer from chronic bronchitis and emphysema, suffer more than others, enduring asthma attacks and intense difficulty breathing. There are over 1.8 million people with asthma in New York State, 425,000 of whom are children, while approximately 1 million people suffer from chronic bronchitis and about 277,000 have emphysema. ***For a county-by-county list of the number of people put at risk by increased pollution, please see the following report.***

The Capital Region: *There are as many as 163,000 people in the Capital Region who suffer from asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, placing them at risk of severe health problems as air pollution increases.*

County	Child Asthma	Adult Asthma	Chronic Bronchitis	Emphysema
Albany	6,598	21,503	16,172	4,301
Rensselaer	3,417	11,135	8,374	2,227
Schenectady	3,283	10,699	8,046	2,140
Saratoga	4,494	14,646	11,015	2,929
Fulton	1,234	4,020	3,024	804
Montgomery	1,113	3,629	2,729	726
Schoharie	707	2,305	1,734	461
Washington	1,367	4,456	3,351	891
Capital Region	22,214	72,394	54,444	14,479

Central New York: There are as many as 154,000 people in Central New York who suffer from asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, placing them at risk of severe health problems as air pollution increases.

County	Child Asthma	Adult Asthma	Chronic Bronchitis	Emphysema
Oneida	5,275	17,189	12,927	3,438
Oswego	2,741	8,934	6,718	1,787
Madison	1,555	5,069	3,812	1,014
Cortland	1,089	3,548	2,668	710
Onondaga	10,267	33,459	25,163	6,692
Central New York	20,927	68,198	51,589	13,640

Rochester and the Finger Lakes: There are as many as 206,000 people in Rochester and the Finger Lakes who suffer from asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, placing them at risk of severe health problems as air pollution increases.

County	Child Asthma	Adult Asthma	Chronic Bronchitis	Emphysema
Cayuga	1,836	5,983	4,500	1,197
Seneca	747	2,434	1,830	487
Yates	552	1,797	1,352	359
Ontario	2,245	7,316	5,502	1,463
Wayne	2,100	6,845	5,148	1,369
Monroe	16,472	53,680	40,370	10,736
Livingston	1,441	4,696	3,532	939
Schuyler	431	1,403	1,055	281
Tompkins	2,162	7,045	5,298	1,409
Rochester and the Finger Lakes	27,985	91,200	68,587	18,240

The Hudson Valley: There are as many as 378,000 people in the Hudson Valley who suffer from asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, placing them at risk of severe health problems as air pollution increases.

County	Child Asthma	Adult Asthma	Chronic Bronchitis	Emphysema
Westchester	20,685	67,413	50,698	13,483
Rockland	6,423	20,933	15,743	4,187
Putnam	2,145	6,989	5,256	1,398
Dutchess	6,275	20,451	15,380	4,090
Ulster	3,982	12,976	9,758	2,595
Sullivan	1,657	5,400	4,061	1,080
Orange	7,647	24,920	18,741	4,984
Greene	1,080	3,518	2,646	704
Columbia	1,413	4,606	3,464	921
Hudson Valley	51,307	167,205	125,747	33,441

The North Country: There are as many as 91,000 people in the North Country who suffer from asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, placing them at risk of severe health problems as air pollution increases.

County	Child Asthma	Adult Asthma	Chronic Bronchitis	Emphysema
Warren	1,418	4,621	3,475	924
Essex	870	2,836	2,133	567
Clinton	1,790	5,832	4,386	1,166
Franklin	1,145	3,733	2,807	747
Hamilton	120	393	295	79
St Lawrence	2,507	8,171	6,145	1,634
Herkimer	1,443	4,703	3,537	941
Lewis	604	1,967	1,479	393
Jefferson	2,503	8,157	6,134	1,631
North Country	12,401	40,413	30,393	8,083

The Southern Tier: There are as many as 108,000 people in the Southern Tier who suffer from asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, placing them at risk of severe health problems as air pollution increases.

County	Child Asthma	Adult Asthma	Chronic Bronchitis	Emphysema
Delaware	1,076	3,508	2,638	702
Otsego	1,382	4,502	3,386	900
Chenango	1,151	3,752	2,822	750
Broome	4,492	14,639	11,009	2,928
Tioga	1,160	3,780	2,843	756
Chemung	2,040	6,648	5,000	1,330
Steuben	2,211	7,207	5,420	1,441
Allegany	1,118	3,645	2,741	729
Southern Tier	14,631	47,682	35,859	9,536

Western New York: There are as many as 254,000 people in Western New York who suffer from asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, placing them at risk of severe health problems as air pollution increases.

County	Child Asthma	Adult Asthma	Chronic Bronchitis	Emphysema
Orleans	989	3,224	2,425	645
Genesee	1,352	4,407	3,314	881
Wyoming	973	3,170	2,384	634
Erie	21,286	69,369	52,170	13,874
Niagara	4,925	16,049	12,070	3,210
Cattaraugus	1,881	6,129	4,609	1,226
Chautauqua	3,130	10,202	7,672	2,040
Western New York	34,536	112,550	84,644	22,510